

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4196
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2007
EXPANSION PLAN OF BANK OF BARODA
Deora Shri Milind Murti

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bank of Baroda has drawn up an extensive overseas expansion plan which includes acquisition of an African Bank, increasing the number of overseas Branches and opening of a representative office in Australia as reported in The Times of India dated March 19, 2007;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (c): Government had announced an Autonomy Package in February 2005 for the Public Sector Banks (PSBs) to enable them to take quick and efficient decisions, and to provide Bank Boards sufficient managerial autonomy to enable them to compete internationally. The package delegates authority to the Boards for making suitable acquisitions of companies or businesses, closing / merging unviable branches, opening overseas offices, etc. Bank of Baroda has drawn up an extensive overseas expansion plan to capture the opportunities thrown open by globalization in various countries and to consolidate its position further in the international market. This is likely to enable the Bank to provide end-to-end solutions to its 29 million global customers. The bank has recently received approvals from host country regulators for establishing offices in Trinidad & Tobago (Subsidiary), Australia (Representative Office) and Ghana (Subsidiary). The bank has also obtained permission from Reserve Bank of India to open offices in Bahrain, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Canada, New Zealand, Isle of Man, and Mozambique etc.